THE REVELATION

"I am the Alpha and the Omega
the beginning and the end."
Revelation 1:8

By Dr. Lester Sumrall

STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE REVELATION
OF
JESUS CHRIST

LESTER SUMRALL

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This special teaching study guide is a college workbook. Space is allowed for your personal notes so the text can grow into your own material.

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STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE REVELATION
OF
JESUS CHRIST

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INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE REVELATION
OF
JESUS CHRIST

LESSON 1

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

The most exciting book ever written is probably the Revelation of Jesus Christ. It is the last book of the Bible. It has also been called The Apoclaypse. It is what it claims to be, the REVELATION of truth.

As the book of Genesis is the alpha of the Bible, so the book of Revelation is the omega. It requires you to either believe or refuse to believe.

READING

Revelation 1:1-3, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:*

v. 2, *Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.*

v. 3, *Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

1. PROPHECY AND THE BIBLE

The Bible is a book of prophecy. Prophecy first occurs in Genesis chapter three, and continues through Revelation 22. One-third of the Bible has to do with prophecy.

2. FACTS ABOUT THE REVELATION

A. The Greek word for revelation, *apocalyptus*, means:

1) To unveil or make clear.

2) To uncover so everyone can see plainly.

3) To open a curtain.

B. The book of Revelation is the only prophetic book in the New Testament.

C. The purpose of the book is:

1) To unveil Jesus Christ and show His true self.

2) To reveal Christ as the Lord of the universe. There is no other person like Him.

3) To show Jesus Christ as a King, Priest, Mediator and Judge.

D. This book was written by John the Beloved on the isle of Patmos about 96 AD. The church had only been in existence for about 60 years at this time.

Revelation 1:9, *I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

Patmos is a small, desolate and rocky island in the Aegean Sea, about 50 miles from the coast of Ephesus in Turkey.

E. The book of Revelation is the 66th, or last, book of the Bible. The book has 22 chapters, 404 verses and about 12,000 words.

3. YOU AND THE BOOK OF REVELATION

You must choose to believe the following things in the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

A. God Almighty exists. This book conveys the power, anointing and majesty of the Lord God.

Revelation 4:3, *And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.*

B. God the Father has a Son called the Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 2:18, *And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass.*

C. Jesus Christ is the great High Priest, Savior of the world, and King of kings.

Revelation 19:16, *And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*

D. God exists as the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 4:5, *And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*

The book of Revelation teaches us about the triune nature of God.

E. Miracles really happen.

Revelation 11:6, *These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.*

According to this book, many mighty things have happened, will happen and will continue to happen.

F. Angels exist and are active on the earth today.

Revelation 8:2, *And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.*

Angels are the ministers of God. They function on behalf of humanity in the divine purpose of God.

Hebrews 1:14, *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*

G. Demons are a reality.

Revelation 16:13, *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*

1) More is taught about the devil in the book of The Revelation of Jesus Christ than in any other book of the Bible.

2) Satan is:

a) Cunning.

b) Crafty.

c) Evil.

d) Deceptive.

e) Destructive.

3) The devil is first introduced in the book as a disrupter of the churches.

Revelation 2:9, …*I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*

The book ends with him being cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.

Revelation 20:10, *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

H. God is the Executor of judgment.

1) Lucifer is judged.

Isaiah 14:12, *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*

2) He judged Adam.

Genesis 3:16-19, *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

v. 17, *And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;*

v. 18, *Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;*

v. 19, *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*

3) The book of Revelation describes the unbelievable judgment of 100 million people. Blood will flow to the depth of a horse's bridle.

Revelation 14:20, *And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.*

I. Heaven is a reality.

Revelation 21:1, *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

1) Unlike animals, mankind lives beyond this earthly life.

2) This earthly life is only the dressing room for our future.

3) A city with streets of pure gold exists as the future home for people whose lives please God.

Revelation 21:18, *And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.*

J. There is a literal hell.

Revelation 20:15, *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

1) Hell is the future home for those who rebel against God during this life.

2) Hell is filled with pain and agony.

If you cannot accept these truths of the book of Revelation, close the book. Do not read it. These facts are the judgments revealed in this book of prophecy.

4. REVELATION IS A BOOK OF CONCLUSIONS

A. It contains the conclusion of evil.

Revelation 20:14, *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

B. It is the conclusion of death.

Revelation 20:14, *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

C. It has the conclusion of hell, or Hades.

Revelation 20:14, *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

D. It describes the end of the devil.

Revelation 20:10, *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

E. It contains the conclusion of sin and transgression.

Revelation 20:13, *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

F. It shows the conclusion of lies and abominations.

Revelation 21:27, *But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.* (NKJV).

G. It contains the conclusion of separation from God.

Revelation 3:12, *Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

H. It describes the conclusion of tears and sadness.

Revelation 21:4, *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

G. It shows us the conclusion of time.

Revelation 10:6, *And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer.*

5. THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF MANKIND

The book of Genesis shows us the beginning and creation of humanity. The Revelation of Jesus Christ describes the end of mankind. All the other books of the Bible relate to these two books.

A. People began to walk with God in Genesis.

Genesis 3:8, *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*

B. Every sin prevalent today can be found in the book of Genesis.

C. The book of Revelation describes mankind reigning with Christ at the throne of God forever.

Revelation 3:21, *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

6. THE HUMAN AUTHOR OF REVELATION

John the Beloved is the writer of the book of Revelation. The visions and doctrines recorded in this book were given during his exile on Patmos. They most likely occurred during times of prayer and worship.

Revelation 1:9, *I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

John was an old man at the time of his authorship. His fellow apostles had been martyred. The church in Jerusalem had been dispersed throughout the world. The city of Jerusalem had been destroyed by Roman armies. John was probably lonely and looking forward to heaven.

John was a member of the inner circle of three disciples of Jesus. At this point in time, he was the last living apostle.

7. THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS ON SCHEDULE

Galatians 4:4-5, *But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*

v. 5, *To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

Acts 2:1, *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

Today is the time of prophetic fulfillment. The book of Revelation is our textbook of prophecy.

Joel 2:28, *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.*

8. THE SCOPE OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Revelation 1:19, *Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.*

A. The past: What John had witnessed about Jesus Christ and His apostolic ministry.

B. The present: The things which are, today's prevailing conditions.

C. The future: The things which shall be hereafter, including the blueprint of the Church age, the Great Tribulation, the New Heaven and the New Earth.

9. THE OBJECT OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The name of the book expresses its objective. For example the name Genesis means "beginnings," Exodus means "to go forth" and the word gospel means "good news."

This book is not primarily a prediction of the end of the ungodly; but rather a revelation of Jesus Christ–His person, offices and administrations as High Priest, Judge and King.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ is a book of blessing.

Revelation 1:3, *Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE REVELATION
OF
JESUS CHRIST

LESSON 2

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

INTRODUCTION

Revelation 22:10, *And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.*

The book of the Revelation was not sealed. It is possible for every Christian to understand the basic message of this book.

READING

Revelation 1:19-20, *Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;*

v. 20, *The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.*

1. THE SEVEN CHURCHES

The seven churches of the Apocalypse consisted of real, living people who were pastors, elders, deacons and lay people. The cities existed in history and their geographical locations are still known today. I have visited these places in modern Turkey. These seven cities were Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

There were other churches in that area; but these seven were representative of the Church as a whole. They were used to teach about human nature and changing world conditions. One-eighth of the Revelation is filled with the letters to these churches.

A. The lesson of the seven churches.

We learn from these first century Christians that success and failure are possible in our Christian experience. These churches were meant to be in the world, but not of it. Through them Christ teaches us how we should live and work for Him.

B. The seven churches represent:

1) Seven periods of time which covers the 2,000 years of the church age.

2) Seven revelations and conditions of the church.

3) Seven battles that need to be won by Christians over the world, the flesh and the devil.

4) Seven rewards for those who remain faithful.

5) Seven judgments on those Christians who fail to be faithful.

6) Seven expressions of Jesus Christ, as revealed to the churches.

2. AN OUTLINE OF CHAPTER ONE

A. The seven Spirits before the throne represent the Holy Spirit in the fullness of His divine illumination and energy.

Revelation 1:4, *John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;*

Revelation 5:6, *And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.*

Isaiah 11:2, *And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*

1) The Spirit of the Lord, or deity.

2) The Spirit of wisdom.

3) The Spirit of understanding.

4) The Spirit of counsel.

5) The Spirit of might.

6) The Spirit of knowledge.

7) The Spirit of the fear of the Lord.

B. Jesus Christ is our faithful witness. He is a witness to all people in all dispensations.

Revelation 1:5, *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.*

C. A Christian priesthood.

Revelation 1:6, *And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

1) We are kings and rulers.

2) We are priests and servants of the Most High.

D. The revelation of Jesus Christ will be different.

1) The rapture of the church will be different from His first coming.

Revelation 1:7, *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*

I Thessalonians 4:17, *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

2) His revelation to John was different from His first appearance on earth.

Revelation 1:9-11, *I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

v. 10, *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,*

v. 11, *Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*

E. John saw Jesus with seven golden lampstands and seven stars.

Revelation 1:12-13, *And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;*

v. 13, *And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*

1) These lampstands or candlesticks represent the churches. Christ walks among them. These churches are the light of the world.

2) The seven stars represent the angels who minister to the churches.

Revelation 1:20, *The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.*

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INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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JESUS CHRIST

LESSON 3

SEVEN THINGS CHRIST KNEW ABOUT THE CHURCHES

INTRODUCTION

The Lord Jesus Christ saw conditions which foreshadow the end-time church period in the seven churches of Revelation. These seven churches give us 2,000 years of the religious history and prophecy Christendom.

READING

Revelation 2:7, *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

1. EPHESUS

Revelation 2:1-2, *Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;*

v. 2, *I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:*

A. The ruins of Ephesus lie near the modern town of Selchuk, Turkey. At the edge of the ruins lies the remains of the great temple of Diana mentioned in the book of Acts.

Acts 19:27, *"So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship."* (NKJV).

This temple was used both for religious purposes and the city treasury. Today it is desolate.

B. The church at Ephesus may have been the largest of the seven cities. Among the city's ruins is a large theater which may have seated more than 25,000 people. There are also the ruins of several other heathen temples and elaborate Roman baths.

C. Paul live in Ephesus for two years.

Acts 19:10, *And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.*

D. The church at Ephesus represents church history from its birth at Pentecost to the end of the Apostolic Era in about 94 AD.

2. SMYRNA

Revelation 2:8-10, *And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;*

v. 9, *I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*
v. 10, *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

A. Fifty miles northwest of Ephesus lies Smyrna. Today it is the modern port city of Iznur, Turkey. With a population of about a half million people, it is Turkey's third largest city. The *agora*, or marketplace, covers a large portion of the city's crowded downtown.

B. This church represents the second church period, from the end of the Apostolic Era to the time of Constantine (about 312-319 AD).

C. Smyrna is remembered as the church of persecution. The word, Smyrna, means "myrrh." They were commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ to be *faithful until death.*

Polycarp, one of the church fathers, said, "Fourscore and six years He has been faithful to me. Can I be unfaithful to Him now?"

After he said these words, he was martyred by Roman guards. He was buried near Smyrna.

3. PERGAMOS

Revelation 2:12-13, *And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;*

v. 13, *I know thy works and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.*

A. Pergamos is 70 miles north of Smyrna. It was situated on the slopes of the Acropolis. The modern town of Bergama, Turkey is located in the valley below. Bergama has a population of about 20,000.

B. The church at Pergamos is representative of church history from the time of Constantine to the beginning of the Papacy, or 312-450 AD.

C. Pergamos means "citadel."

4. THYATIRA

Revelation 2:18-19, *And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;*

v. 19, *I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.*

A. Fifty miles east of Pergamos is Thyatira. Today it is the town of Akhisar, Turkey and has a population of over 30,000. Acts 16:14 tells us that Lydia originally came from this city.

Like Damascus and Tarsus, Akisar has existed since before recorded history. The local people have no knowledge of the area's rich and colorful history, or of the references to their city in the Holy Scriptures.

B. The church period represent by Thyatira lasted from about 450 AD to the Reformation, around 1500 AD. This period is known as the Dark or Middle Ages. During this time western civilization actually regressed.

During the Middle Ages, heathen religions like Mohammedism and Buddhism rose to prominence. It was also during this period that the Papacy became a political and religious power.

5. SARDIS

Revelation 3:1-2, *And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.*

v. 2, *Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.*

A. Sardis is still called Sardis. It is directly south of Thyatira, and about 45 miles west of Smyrna.

B. This church represents the Reformation Period of 1500 AD to about 1750 AD.

The word, Sardis, means *those running or escaping*. This name is representative of the Reformation Period. During this time in Western Civilization, great spiritual leaders left a decaying, central church to change the world. In 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the church at Wittenberg, Germany.

6. PHILADELPHIA

Revelation 3:7-8, *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;*

v. 8, *I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.*

A. Philadelphia is southeast of Sardis. It is now the isolated town of Alasehir, Turkey. Its present population is over 12,000.

This town is seldom visited by anyone except those interested in Biblical history. The one-time “city of brotherly love” and site of a great spiritual church has no Christian witness today.

B. Philadelphia represents the church from 1750 AD to 1900 AD and will continue until the rapture. The period from 1750 to 1900 was a time of great evangelistic and missionary labor around the world. The church of Philadelphia stood against the lifeless, spiritless religion of its time.

C. Jesus Christ said three things about the church at Philadelphia.

1) They had some strength. They were coming back to life, but they were still weak. The revivals of Martin Luther, George Whitfield, John Wesley, and Charles Finney brought strength to the church.

2) The Lord opened a door which could not be shut by any human being. This open door represents world-wide missions. William Carey went to India in 1793. Other early missionaries went to China, Japan and Africa.

3) This church was kept from the hour of tribulation. It is the Bride of Christ which will be caught up in the air.

7. LAODICEA

Revelation 3:15-18, *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.*

v. 16, *So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.*

v. 17, *Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

v. 18, *I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayest see.*

A. Laodicea is located 68 miles southeast of Philadelphia. It is near the city of Denizli, Turkey. Denizli has a population of over 30,000 people.

Laodicea was part of a tri-city area with Colosse and Hierapolis. All three cities were located with a 10-mile area (see Colossians 4:13).

Historically, this city was a center for pagan cults. Archaeological excavations have uncovered many relics which prove that Laodicea was a wealthy city. It was named after an emperor's wife, Laodice.

B. The Bible says that Jesus stood outside the door of this church. It was so carnal and worldly that Christ had no place or pre-eminence within it. He still stood at the door knocking.

C. This is a historic-prophetic lukewarm church. It coexists with the Philadelphia church. Its historic period began around 1900 AD and will continue until the end of the church age.

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LESSON 4

SEVEN PROMISES TO THE OVERCOMER

INTRODUCTION

Each of the churches in the book of Revelation had a group of overcomers. These victorious believers received great promises from Jesus Christ.

READING

Revelation 2:7, *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

1. THE OVERCOMERS AT EPHESUS

A. Revelation 2:2, *I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:*

1) The Lord knows our works. We do not need to remind Him of our good deeds.

2) There comes a time during your life when you begin to feel evil has become so bad that you cannot tolerate it any longer.

3) We must understand that not everyone is who they claim to be.

B. Revelation 2:5, *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

1) Jesus Christ did not say that He would remove the pastor of the church. He did say that He would remove the lampstand or church itself.

2) Today no church exists in any of these seven cities. All of the areas are Moslem. The cities have mosques, but no churches.

C. Revelation 2:7, …*To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

1) The tree of life was originally planted in the garden of Eden.

Genesis 2:9, *And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

2) God separated humanity from that tree because of sin and rebellion.

Genesis 3:22-24, *And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:*

v. 23, *Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.*

v. 24, *So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

3) Revelation 2:7 says God will allow mankind to come to the tree of life again. There is a requirement for this privilege; the individual must be an overcomer–a person who says no to sin and yes to God.

2. THE OVERCOMERS OF SMYRNA

Revelation 2:11, *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*

A. The first death is separation from our environment. The second dead is separation from God.

B. The overcomer will not be separated from God.

1) The overcomer will see God.

Matthew 5:8, *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

2) God shall wipe away the overcomer's tears.

Revelation 21:4, *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

C. It is not impossible to be an overcomer.

1) Anybody can keep the Ten Commandments.

Matthew 19:20, *The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?*

2) The devil tries to tell us that it is impossible to keep God's commandments, but he is a liar.

John 8:44, *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

3) The overcomer must resist the world, flesh and devil.

I John 2:16, *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

3. THE OVERCOMERS OF PERGAMOS

Revelation 2:17, *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.*

A. Overcomers will be able to eat the true manna of God.

John 6:53-58, *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.*

v. 54, *Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

v. 55, *For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.*

v. 56, *He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.*

v. 57, *As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.*

v. 58, *This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.*

B. Overcomers will be given a white stone more beautiful than any diamond.

C. Overcomers will be given a new name.

1) When my wife and I were married, her last name was changed to Sumrall. If we are overcomers we will receive the name of God.

2) I often called my wife, Honey. It was a pet name just between the two of us. The new name Jesus will give us will also be just between Him and us.

3) I met a boy in reform school who had just come to know the Lord. He said that he was going to change his name when he was released. He wanted to be new inside and out.

4. THE OVERCOMERS OF THYATIRA

Revelation 2:26-29, *And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*

v. 27, *And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

v. 28, *And I will give him the morning star.*

v. 29, *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

The overcomer's reign will be glorious and authoritative. It will be symbolized by a star.

5. THE OVERCOMERS OF SARDIS

Revelation 3:5-6, *He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*

v. 6, *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

A. Our white garments will probably glisten like Jesus' garments at the transfiguration.

Matthew 17:2, *And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

B. Those people who do not overcome will be blotted out of the Book of Life.

6. THE OVERCOMERS OF PHILADELPHIA

Revelation 3:12-13, *Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

v. 13, *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

A. Overcomers will have a permanent home with God.

B. They will be sealed with:

1) God's name.

2) The name of the New Jerusalem.

3) Jesus Christ's new name.

C. Those who do not overcome will be sealed by the Antichrist with the mark of hell

Revelation 13:16, *And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads.*

7. THE OVERCOMERS OF LAODICEA

Revelation 3:21-22, *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*

v. 22, *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

This promise demonstrates of victory of the overcomer.

STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE REVELATION
OF
JESUS CHRIST

LESSON 5

SEVEN JUDGMENTS ON THE UNFAITHFUL IN THE CHURCHES

INTRODUCTION

Jesus found overcomers in the churches; but He also found people who had been overcome by sin and failure. These people, like Ananias and Sapphira, received judgment rather than a promise.

1. THE JUDGMENT ON EPHESUS

Revelation 2:5-6, *"Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place; unless you repent.*

v. 6, *"But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate."* (NKJV).

A. New Christians love everybody. They are filled with an all-encompassing love for the Lord, their fellow Christians and sinners. To continue in Christ, this love must be kept alive.

B. The lampstand, or candlestick, represents the church.

Revelation 1:20, *The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.*

C. The modern city of Ephesus, Selchuck, is without a Christian church today. It is filled with Moslem mosques.

2. NO JUDGMENT ON SMYRNA

Revelation 2:9-10, *I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*

v. 10, *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

God knows our problems. He knows when we prosper spiritually. He knows who the hypocrites in the church are.

3. THE JUDGMENT ON PERGAMOS

Revelation 2:14-16, *"But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.*

v. 15, *"Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.*

v. 16, *"Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth."* (NKJV).

A. Balaam was paid by Balak to curse Israel, but God would not permit him to do it.

Numbers 24:13, *If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the LORD saith, that will I speak?*

B. The Nicolaitans created a priesthood within the church. They respected some people above others. God did not approve of this because it made the people of the church unequal, and they could no longer flow together.

4. THE JUDGMENT ON THYATIRA

Revelation 2:20-24, *Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.*

v. 21, *And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.*

v. 22, *Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.*

v. 23, *And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.*

The Jezebel mentioned in Revelation 2:20-23 is not the same Jezebel as the one in I Kings 19. She was an actual person living in Thyatira at that time. She was full of the devil, yet the church continued to tolerated her.

5. THE JUDGMENT ON SARDIS

Revelation 3:1-3, *And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.*

v. 2, *Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.*

v. 3, *Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.*

The Lord told the church at Sardis, "Look for something more than a name. Look for holiness, purity and godliness."

These people needed to look for a place where they could worship God, and cut off sin.

6. NO JUDGMENT ON PHILADELPHIA

Revelation 3:8,, *I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.*

The name, Philadelphia, means *brotherly love*. The Lord had no complaint against this church.

7. THE JUDGMENT ON LAODICEA

Revelation 3:15-17,, *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.*

v. 16, *So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.*

v. 17, *Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

A. The church at Laodicea gave mental assent to the gospel, but they were not Christians. They were in the middle, neither believers nor unbelievers.

1) They had come to the body of Christ, but were cast out.

2) They were half of the world, and half of the church.

3) They refused to move into spiritual things.

B. This church was spiritually bankrupt. They lost their robes and righteousness.

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LESSON 6

THE RAPTURE

INTRODUCTION

The theme of Revelation chapter four is explained by the Greek words, *meta toua*, which means *after the church age*. We can also interpret these words to mean *after the rapture*. Though the word, rapture, is not in the King James Version of the Bible, it simply means to be taken away. *Meta toua* can also mean *after the taking away*.

Chapter three closes with Christ knocking on a closed door. Chapter four opens with an open door leading to heaven.

1. THE PERIOD OF TIME

At this point in the book of Revelation, the church is no longer mentioned as being on earth. Therefore, we can accept that beginning with chapter four Christ deals with the nations and the Jews. Chapter four is the beginning of the great tribulation.

2. THE REVELATION OF CHRIST

Revelation 4:1-3, *After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter.*

v. 2, *And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.*

v. 3, *And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.*

A. Jesus Christ was seated upon a throne encircled by a rainbow.

B. His radiance was like precious stones.

C. His glory was indescribable.

3. THE THRONE OF CHRIST

Revelation 4:4-6, *And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.*

v. 5, *And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*

v. 6, *And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.*

A. Twenty-four elders dressed in white raiment with crowns sat on thrones around the throne of Christ. They worshipped the One who sat on the throne.

B. Lightning, thunder and voices emanated from the throne. Thunder and lightning symbolize unlimited power.

C. The seven lamps of fire represent the seven Spirits of God.

D. The sea of glass speaks of eternal holiness and purity.

E. Four heavenly creatures were in the midst and around the throne.

Revelation 4:7-8, *The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.*

v. 8, *The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"* (NKJV).

1) The lion is the king of beasts. He symbolizes power and omnipotence.

2) The calf is the king of cattle. He represents sacrifice and strength for service.

3) Man is the head of creation. He symbolizes intelligence.

4) The eagle symbolizes inscrutability and the loftiness of divine wisdom. His wings represent swiftness and the rapidity of motion.

These creatures praised God day and night.

4. THE RAPTURE

I Thessalonians 4:15-17, *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

v. 16, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

v. 17, *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

The phrase, the rapture of the church, refers to the catching up of all the true believers to meet Christ in the air. This event is clearly prophesied in the Bible. Anyone who does not believe in the rapture, does not understand the Bible.

5. THE FACT OF THE RAPTURE

Christ promised His disciples that He would return. He told His disciples to watch for His return.

Luke 21:34-36, *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

v. 35, *For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.*

v. 36, *Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*

6. THE PURPOSE OF THE RAPTURE.

A. To resurrect the dead.

I Thessalonians 4:13-14, *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

v. 14, *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

I Corinthians 15:52, *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump….*

The Rapture will occur in a moment (the smallest particle of time), the twinkling of an eye (a fraction of a second).

B. To collect believers from all dispensations throughout the earth.

I Corinthians 15:52-53, *…for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

v. 53, *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

Notice the word *must* in I Corinthians 15:53. We will not go to heaven in the same bodies we have now.

C. To reward and change our physical bodies. The earthly body that is subject to limitations will be shed and become like Jesus' body after His resurrection.

Philippians 3:20-21, *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ:*

v. 21, *Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

7. WHO IS QUALIFIED TO PARTAKE IN THE RAPTURE?

A. Those who are in Christ.

I Corinthians 15:22-23, *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

v. 23, *But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

B. Those who have done good.

John 5:28-29, *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,*

v. 29, *And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

C. Those who remain faithful to the way, truth and life of Christ.

John 14:6, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

D. Those who are without spot or wrinkle.

Ephesians 5:27, *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

8. WHEN WILL THE RAPTURE HAPPEN?

Only God the Father knows when the Rapture will occur. We do not know the day or hour.

Mark 13:32, *But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.*

9. SIGNS LEADING TO THE RAPTURE AND THE LAST DAYS

A. An unprecedented increase of knowledge.

Daniel 12:4, *But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*

B. Travel will increase through the world.

C. Earthquakes will occur in various places.

Luke 21:11, *And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.*

D. There will be distress of nations.

Luke 21:25-28, *And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;*

v. 26, *Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.*

v. 27, *And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

v. 28, *And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*

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INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE REVELATION
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LESSON 7

THE SCROLL WITH SEVEN SEALS

(Please note: the audio and video series does not contain this lesson)

INTRODUCTION

The fifth chapter of Revelation is a continuation of the fourth chapter. The first word of chapter five is "and."

Chapter five reveals Jesus Christ in His glory as the Lamb worthy to open the scroll. This seven-sealed scroll, or book, contains the secret of the chapters which follow. This scroll holds the key to understanding the entire book of Revelation. It is the mortgage of mankind's sin, and has the terms by which Adam's lost estate can be redeemed (Chapter six).

READING

Revelation 5:5, *But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."* (NKJV).

1. THE SCROLL OF AUTHORITY

Revelation 5:1-2, *And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?*

v. 3, *And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.*

A. This scroll, or book, is in God's right hand. This location symbolizes authority. The scroll is written on both sides, inside and out.

B. The scroll has seven seals. The number seven signifies completeness. This scroll tells us about the chapters which follow in the book of Revelation.

C. When the book is opened, the heavens and earth are purified from sin.

2. WHO IS WORTHY TO UNSEAL THE SCROLL?

Revelation 5:3-4, *And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.*

v. 5, *And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.* (NKJV).

No human being could open the scroll. John began to weep with compassion for mankind's predicament.

3. JESUS CHRIST REVEALED

Revelation 5:5-8, *But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."*

v. 6, *And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*

v. 7, *Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.* (NKJV).

A. The seven-sealed scroll can only be opened by Jesus Christ. He is the only one who could pay the mortgage. This represents the inability of creation to look upon the scroll.

B. Christ's uniqueness is shown in these verses. No one else is capable of reaching both God and humanity.

C. As our kinsman-redeemer, Jesus Christ is worthy, willing and able to redeem a lost world.

D. The seven horns in verse six reveal fullness of power. The seven eyes symbolize fullness of knowledge and wisdom. The Lamb represents redemption.

E. As the Lion of Judah, Christ is the promised Root and Offspring of David.

F. As the second Adam, He is the only one worthy to open the seven-seals of the scroll. Only He is worthy to redeem what was lost in the first Adam's fall.

G. Jesus Christ was sinless at Calvary. He was powerful at His resurrection. Satan refuses to relinquish his hold; therefore, Christ must force him to do so.

4. THE HEAVENS PRAISE GOD

Revelation 5:8-14, *Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*

v. 9, *And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,*

v. 10, *And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."*

v. 11, *Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,*

v. 12, *saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"*

v. 13, *And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"*

v. 14, *Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.* (NKJV).

A. The four living creatures and 24 elders fell down before Jesus. They were singing a new song. Celestial beings and the redeemed of earth alike praise God for His gift of redemption.

B. The song of the redeemed proclaims our redemption, and position as kings and priests.

C. A hundred million angels magnify the Lord.

D. All of God's creation joins in the praise of their Creator and Redeemer.

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JESUS CHRIST

LESSON 8

THE FOUR WOMEN
OF THE APOCALYPSE

INTRODUCTION

There are four distinct women mentioned in the book of the Revelation. They are very different, both in disposition and destiny.

READING

A. Revelation 2:20, *Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.*

B. Revelation 12:1, *And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.*

C. Revelation 19:7, *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

D. Revelation 17:1, *And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters.*

1. THAT WOMAN JEZEBEL

She was found in the church at Thyatira, the fourth of the seven churches.

Revelation 2:20-22, *Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.*

v. 21, *And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.*

v. 22, *Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.*

A. This Jezebel is not the queen of Israel mentioned in I Kings 19. She was a member of the local church in Thyatira; but she is also a counterpart to the wicked queen Jezebel.

B. This woman called herself a prophetess. She was permitted to teach in the church.

C. She seduced God's servants to commit fornication.

D. She exemplified the flesh so much that she produced sin.

E. She caused God's servants to eat food which had been sacrificed to idols. This was forbidden by the Holy Spirit through the Jerusalem church.

Acts 15:20, *But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.*

F. She remained close to idol worship. She introduced pagan practices and idolatry into the church.

G. She was given an opportunity to repent in verse 21, but she refused.

H. The Lord rebuked the church, and told it to repent or it would enter into great tribulation.

Revelation 2:23-26, *And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.*

v. 24, *But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.*

v. 25, *But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.*

v. 26, *And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*

1) God hates false prophecy! The church must stand and rest on the truth.

2) The church must silence liars.

2. THE WOMAN WITH CHILD

Revelation 12:1-9, *And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:*

v. 2, *And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.*

v. 3, *And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.*

v. 4, *And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

v. 5, *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

v. 6, *And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.*

v. 7, *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*

v. 8, *And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.*

v. 9, *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

A. A great sign appeared in heaven (verse one). This sign was a woman clothed with the sun, wearing a crown of 12 stars.

B. She labored in childbirth, and bore a son. This woman could possibly symbolize Israel.

C. The appearance of the dragon in verse three is also considered a sign in the heavens. This dragon is the devil. He hated the woman, and she fled to the wilderness for safety.

D. The dragon had seven heads, and ten horns. Each head wore a crown.

E. Verse four proves this dragon to be Satan. He drew a third of the stars of heaven with him (angels who became demons). He also attempted to destroy the child at birth.

F. The child was destined to rule all nations. He was caught up to heaven.

G. The woman fled into the wilderness, to a place prepared for her by the Lord. She will remain here for 1,260 days, or three-and-a-half years. This will occur during the Great Tribulation.

H. Michael and his angelic armies will fight the dragon and his angels. The dragon will be defeated.

I. In verse nine, the dragon loses all of his power and his angels.

J. The male child of the woman could represent either the Lord Jesus Christ, or the church. Some people have taught that He represents the 144,000 Jews mentioned in Revelation chapter seven.

3. THE BRIDE

Revelation 19:7-9, *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

v. 8, *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

v. 9, *And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

A. Marriage joins couples together with great joy. The comparison to a wedding depicts the joy at the marriage of the Lamb to His church.

II Corinthians 11:2, *For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

B. The home is a place of holiness.

C. The bride of Christ will attend the marriage of the Lamb.

D. The bride is dressed in fine linen, clean and white. This linen symbolizes righteousness.

E. Everyone invited to the marriage supper is blessed.

4. THE SCARLET-CLOTHED WOMAN

Revelation 17:1-6, *And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:*

v. 2, *With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.*

v. 3, *So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.*

v. 4, *And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:*

v. 5, *And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

v. 6, *And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.*

A. The harlot represents perverted religion contaminated with politics. The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her.

B. The harlot rules over people. Water is frequently used as a symbol of the people of the earth.

Revelation 17:15, *Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues."* (NKJV).

C. The spirit of this great harlot is alive today.

1) Religion grips the people of Iran in a murderous regime.

2) Civil groups in Ireland clash constantly over religion. The result is bloody violence.

3) This great harlot is the part of modern religion which will remain after the true church has been raptured.

D. The beast represents the Antichrist. As the Antichrist is a counterfeit Christ, the harlot is the counterfeit bride. The bride is holy and pure, while the harlot is unholy and impure.

E. The harlot as the counterfeit church will not follow the Bible, Holy Spirit or Jesus Christ. There will be no emphasis on the new birth. Sinners and pagans will rule a false church.

F. Political forces will turn violently against the harlot-church.

Revelation 17:16, *"And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire."* (NKJV).

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LESSON 9

THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE

INTRODUCTION

John, the beloved, was exiled to the Isle of Patmos, 30 miles off the coast of Asia Minor in the Aegean Sea. This is the place where he received the amazing revelation recorded in the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

The first three chapters of Revelations reveal the majesty of Christ. They also reveal the function of His church on earth through admonitions, warnings and promises. Chapter four reveals the church's exit from earth to heaven, where it will experience wondrous things.

Jesus Christ breaks seals of judgment on a secret book in the fifth chapter. The sixth chapter shows what happens when these seals begin to open. This is the chapter where we meet the four horsemen of the Apocalypse, who ride throughout the earth.

1. THE FIRST SEAL: A WHITE HORSE

The appearance of the Antichrist.

Revelation 6:2, *And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.*

A. This is a horse of war. I believe its rider is the Antichrist, the imitation of Jesus Christ.

B. This rider carries a bow, but no arrows of death.

C. The rider is given a crown. This crown is a symbol of power.

D. He rides forth conquering. He conquers humanity with victory after victory.

E. His bow is a bow of peace, and bloodless victory.

F. This rider, the Antichrist, conquers with peace. He cries for prosperity and peace. He is a counterfeit Christ, the earthly "superman." He will lead the world to Armageddon! He will not seem to be a villain, but the peace he brings will be temporary and counterfeit.

2. THE SECOND SEAL: THE RED HORSE

Tribulation warfare.

Revelation 6:4, *And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.*

A. It is the duty of the rider of the red horse to take peace from the earth. The white horse gains authority peacefully through politics. The red horse takes authority through war.

B. The rider was given a great sword. This symbolizes the dreadful killing which takes place during the tribulation period. Rivers of blood will flow all over the world.

Revelation 14:20, *And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.*

A furlong is a distance of about an eighth of a mile. The blood of this battle will flow for about a distance of 200 miles.

C. These first two horsemen are progressive. They will not occur during the same time period.

3. THE THIRD SEAL: THE BLACK HORSE

The coming of world-wide famine.

Revelation 6:5, *And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.*

A. The black horse and its rider symbolize mourning, lamentations and warning, weeping and sighing. (See Jeremiah 4:28; Malachi 3:14; and Lamentations 4:8-9.)

B. This rider carries a set of balances, or scales. Scales are symbolic of commerce and trade.

C. This rider will cause a measure of wheat to be sold for a penny, or one day's labor. During John's day, eight measures of wheat could be purchased for a penny. The rider will cause three measures of barley to sell for a penny (barley was a less expensive grain than wheat). These prices speak of famine and rationing.

A measure is equal to about one quart, a meager ration for a day's food. Usually wheat would only cost an eighth of a day's wage. During this time, if your wages were $5.00 a day, wheat would sell for $150.00 a bushel. Food will cost eight times as much as normal. For example, the price of bread will increase from 50¢ to $4.00 a loaf. Necessities will jump drastically in price.

4. THE FOURTH SEAL: THE PALE HORSE

World-wide destruction.

Revelation 6:8, *And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.*

A. The rider of this horse is named Death; and Hell follows him. They represent the plague and pestilence that will stalk the earth.

B. This rider is given the power to destroy one-fourth of the world's population (over one-and-a-half billion people). He opens the Great Tribulation.

C. He kills with the sword (war), hunger and the animals of the earth.

5. THE FIFTH HORSE

The return of Jesus Christ with His saints.

A. Revelation 19:11-16, *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

v. 12, *His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.*

v. 13, *And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*

v. 14, *And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.*

v. 15, *And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

v. 16, *And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*

B. This last Horseman is OUR Horseman. All the saints will come from heaven riding with Him. This will be a great climatic event! Christ will come to earth to establish His kingdom! He will come in great glory! The rebellion of Satan, his demons and mankind will be contained, put down and judged.

Right will triumph! Holiness will prevail! Jesus Christ shall rule!

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LESSON 10

THE 144,000 WORLD EVANGELISTS

INTRODUCTION

The seventh chapter of Revelation is an interlude between chapters six and eight. It is a pause between judgments. It reveals how God will keep and protect His people during the Great Tribulation.

After the rapture of true believers, the Spirit which remains will lead multitudes of people to salvation; but He will not hinder the powers of darkness from carrying out their purpose in the fulfillment of prophecy.

READING

Revelation 7:4, *And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*

1. ANGELS ARE ACTIVE

Angels are very active at crisis points in history. These are times of conflict between demonic and angelic forces, but in Revelation chapter seven we are confronted with four angels who hold the four winds of the earth. There is also a fifth angel who has the seal of God.

A. This seal represents the authority and power of God.

B. Seals were used in the ancient world, and are still used to some extent today, to sign official papers.

C. The fifth angel delivered the message that the earth could not be hurt by the forces of the Antichrist until God had sealed His servants.

Revelation 7:3, *Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*

2. GOD'S WITNESSES

A. God always has witnesses, even in the world's darkest hour. Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Nehemiah, Esther, and John the Baptist are examples of such witnesses. The 144,000 sealed people of Revelation chapter seven are also His witnesses.

Revelation 7:4, *And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*

B. God had 7,000 servants in Israel during the reign of Ahab. He will have 144,000 witnesses in the hour of tribulation, these are the sealed ones also mentioned in Revelation 14:1.

Revelation 14:1, *Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.* (NKJV).

C. Each name of Israel's tribes has special significance (Dan and Ephraim are omitted from the list of tribes in Revelation). The 144,000 witnesses will come from these tribes.

1) Judah represents confession and praise to God.

2) Reuben means *viewing the son*.

3) Gad means *a company*.

4) Asher means *blessed*.

5) Napthali means *a wrestler,* or *striving*.

6) Manasseh represents forgiveness.

7) Simeon means *to hear and obey.*

8) Levi means *to cleave to*, or *join*.

9) Issachar represents a reward, or the prize given as a reward.

10) Zebulon means *a home,* or *dwelling place.*

11) Joseph means *added,* or *an addition.*

12) Benjamin means *son of the right hand,* or *son of my old age.*

3. WHO ARE THE 144,000?

The 144,000 sealed ones are not the church. They are not "Jehovah's Witnesses." They are identified with the 12 tribes of Israel. They are the literal flesh and blood of Jacob's seed. They are not any group known to us today. During the Great Tribulation, they will be saved *out of every tribe of the children of Israel.*

4. THE WORK OF THE 144,000

Twelve thousand Jews are sealed from each of Israel's 12 tribes. None of the 12 tribes of Israel are lost. God knows where they are.

These converted Jews become the living witnesses and world missionaries of the Great Tribulation. While the church is at the marriage supper of the Lamb and the judgment seat of Christ, these Jews will be bringing about a tribulation revival.

5. A GREAT MULTITUDE

Revelation 7:9-10, *After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*

v. 10, *And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*

A. The *great multitude* is the fruit of the end-time harvest. It consists of people from all nations, kindreds, tongues, etc. They will live during the Great Tribulation, and will serve God day and night in His Temple. The Lamb will feed them, lead them to fountains of water, and God shall wipe away all their tears.

B. Revelation 7:13-17, *And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?*

v. 14, *And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

v. 15, *Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.*

v. 16, *They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.*

v. 17, *For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

People will be saved during the Great Tribulation, but they will experience great suffering.

6. THE STORM OF TRIBULATION

A. Those who live in Christ will be caught away.

B. The bride of Christ will be physically lifted from the world.

C. The Antichrist will be revealed.

7. THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH

A. God has not appointed His people to wrath.

I Thessalonians 5:9, *For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.*

B. Matthew 24:28, *For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.*

Eagles are royal birds. Just like the eagles, who watch and listen for thunder and winds of storms, Christians should scan the horizon. They should read the signs, and be prepared to meet the Lord in the air.

8. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A RESTRAINING POWER

A. The Holy Spirit is stronger than Satan's power.

B. He is stronger than the influence of evil and sin.

C. He curbs lawlessness.

D. Currently, He holds back the public presentation of the Antichrist until the right time.

9. THE RESTRAINER STOPS RESTRAINING

A. The church will be caught away.

I Thessalonians 5:2, *For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

B. The Antichrist will be revealed.

C. The Holy Spirit will no longer restrain the spirit of the Antichrist.

10. THE STORM BREAKS

A. Tribulation will rage over the earth.

Revelation 8:7-13, *The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.*

v. 8, *And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;*

v. 9, *And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.*

v. 10, *And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;*

v. 11, *And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.*

v. 12, *And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.*

v. 13, *And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabiters of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!*

B. The Beast, or Antichrist, will blaspheme the Lord God.

Revelation 13:5-6, *And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.*

v. 6, *And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.*

C. The devil will be allowed unbridled liberty.

Revelation 13:7-8, *And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

v. 8, *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

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LESSON 11

THE BEGINNING OF THE TRUMPETS

INTRODUCTION

After the interlude of chapter seven, chapter eight begins with a period of silence in heaven. This silence is like the calm before a storm. It reminds us of the seven days Noah was in the ark before the flood started. It is an ominous quiet before the beginning of God's judgment.

READING

Revelation 8:1, *And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.*

1. A REVIEW

The judgment of God began with the opening of the seals in the sixth chapter of Revelation. These judgments included the coming to power of the Antichrist, great inflation and famine throughout the world. One-fourth of the world's population is destroyed by sword, hunger, pestilence and a great

earthquake. The sun is hidden, the moon becomes as red as blood, and stars fall from the heavens. The violence of this judgment causes mountains and islands to literally move.

2. EXPOSITION OF REVELATION 8:1-6

A. Revelation 8:1, *And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.*

This verse is the opening of the seventh seal. The judgments of the seals include the trumpets and the pouring of the vials, or bowls. Heaven is silent in awe of what is about to happen. The seven trumpets bring us to the full intensity of the Great Tribulation.

B. Revelation 8:2, *And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.*

These angels are the heralds of the different judgments of God on the earth. The Lord is directing the action from heaven.

C. Revelation 8:3-6, *And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.*

v. 4, *And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.*

v. 5, *And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.*

v. 6, *And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.*

An angel offers the prayers of the saints to God. He then casts a censer of fire onto the earth. This action brings in a new era of judgment, and the trumpets prepared to sound.

3. THE FIRST TRUMPET

Revelation 8:7, *The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.*

The verse records a solemn moment, the half-hour of silence is over. The prayers of the saints have been heard.

A. One-third of the earth's foliage will be destroyed with hail and fire, mixed with blood. Fire becomes an instrument of God's judgment. All plant life will be effected, from the smallest blades of grass to the mightiest of trees.

B. Cattle will die from the lack of grass. People will suffer from the massive loss of trees.

4. THE SECOND TRUMPET

Revelation 8:8-9, *And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;*

v. 9, *And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.*

A. One-third of the oceans will literally became blood.

B. A great mountain (or maybe a volcano) will be cast into the sea. Whatever it is, it is a great mass.

C. A third of the world's fish will die, and a third of the world's shipping will be destroyed in the bloody waters.

5. THE THIRD TRUMPET

Revelation 8:10-11, *And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;*

v. 11, *And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.*

A. A great star (perhaps a meteor or comet) will fall to the earth. It's mass will be toxic to mankind, and it will poison a third of the springs and rivers. The earth's fresh water supply will be severely contaminated.

B. Many people will die from drinking the bitter water, which will taste like wormwood, the bitterest shrub known. The word, wormwood, refers to calamity and sorrow.

6. THE FOURTH TRUMPET

Revelation 8:12, *And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.*

With the sounding of the fourth trumpet, the sun and moon will be darkened by third; and one-third of the stars will disappear. This event will disrupt the calculation of time.

Humanity is dependent on the sun for life and light. To a lesser degree the moon serves the same purpose. Jesus Himself said:

Matthew 24:29, *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.*

The laws of nature will be radically altered by these events.

7. A CHANCE TO REPENT

In Revelation 8:13, God gives humanity an opportunity to repent. An angel announces in heaven that the last three trumpets will be worse than the first four.

Revelation 8:13, *And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabiters of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!*

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LESSON 12

THREE WOES

INTRODUCTION

An angel has spoken in the midst of the Great Tribulation. His voice came from the heavenly altar of God. The command is given to free the four angels bound in the Euphrates River.

We do not know why these four angels were bound, or why they were incarcerated in the river. We do know that they are freed during the Great Tribulation. They will be allowed to devastate the earth for an hour, a day, a month and a year, or 396 days and one hour. These four demonic creatures will be the cause of death for a third of humanity.

This is one of the most awful judgments ever meted out against sinful man. Amazingly, even in the face of this terrible judgment, people do not accept the opportunity to repent of their sin, and seek the face of God. The first woe introduces us to the second half of the Great Tribulation period.

READING

Revelation 9:12, *One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.*

1. TRIBULATION VS. THE GREAT TRIBULATION

The difference between regular tribulation and the Great Tribulation is that the Great Tribulation is God's judgment against 6,000 years of sin committed by mankind. The church has been experiencing regular tribulation for 2,000 years, but it will not experience the wrath of the Great Tribulation.

2. THE FLOW OF REVELATION UP TO THIS POINT

A. Chapter one demonstrates the majesty of Christ.

B. Chapters two and three show the church age.

C. Chapter four reveals the wonders of heaven.

D. Chapter five reveals the Lamb of God.

E. Chapter six is the beginning of the tribulation judgments.

F. Chapter seven is an interlude; 144,000 Jewish evangelists will spread the gospel throughout the world.

G. Chapter eight is the dramatic opening of the last seal on the scroll of mankind's history.

H. Chapter nine opens with the blowing of the fifth trumpet.

3. THE FIFTH TRUMPET/FIRST WOE

A. Revelation 9:1, *And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.*

Many Bible scholars believe the star that fell from heaven to earth in verse one is a fallen angel, or spirit. This agent of Satan is given the key to the bottomless pit, and frees the powers of hell against an apostate world which has rejected God's love.

The bottomless pit is the place where Satan will be imprisoned for 1,000 years during the millennial reign of Christ. The star that fell is referred to as "him" (the same thing Satan was called).

This star is different from the other stars previously mentioned in Revelation.

B. Revelation 9:2-3, *And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*

v. 3, *And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*

When the bottomless pit is opened, John saw filthy black smoke fill the atmosphere and darken the sun. Out of this smoke came strange beings which resemble locusts.

C. Revelation 9:4-5, *And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.*

v. 5, *And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.*

These locusts are not permitted to harm the trees, grass and other foliage of the earth, but for five months they will be allowed to torment any person not sealed with the seal of God.

Revelation 7:2-3, *And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,*

v. 3, *Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*

D. Revelation 9:6, *And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.*

The locusts are not allowed to kill mankind, only to torment them. No matter how hard the sufferer seeks for death, he will not be allowed to die.

E. Revelation 9:7-10, *And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.*

v. 8, *And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.*

v. 9, *And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.*

v. 10, *And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.*

The monstrous locusts are equipped for their work of torment, the way horses are equipped for battle. They have faces like men, hair like women and teeth like lions. They are winged, so that they may move from nation to nation quickly. Their sting causes terrible pain.

F. Revelation 9:11, *And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.*

This locusts are governed by a king, called *Abaddon* in Hebrew and *Apollyon* in Greek. Both words mean destroyer.

4. THE SIXTH TRUMPET/SECOND WOE

Revelation 9:13-19, *And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,*

v. 14, *Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.*

v. 15, *And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.*

v. 16, *And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.*

v. 17, *And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.*

v. 18, *By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.*

v. 19, *For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.*

A. With the sounding of the sixth trumpet, the four angels in the Euphrates River are freed. Evidently of high rank, they were bound near the locations of the Garden of Eden, the first murder, the tower of Babel and the city of Babylon.

Once they are free, they set out to destroy one-third of humanity with an army of 200 million demon-controlled spirits. This army is outfitted with breastplates of fire, jacinth and brimstone. Their hellish breath will destroy their victims.

B. Forces from hell will be at work all over the earth.

1) They will be like horses–ready for battle.

2) They will be like men–crowned with crowns of dominion.

3) They will be like women– deceptively beautiful.

4) They will be like lions–having teeth of destruction.

5) They will be like birds–winged for speed.

6) They will be like scorpions–having stingers of death.

C. The population of the world will be terribly decimated.

D. Revelation 9:20-21, *And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:*

v. 21, *Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.*

The people who have not yet been killed will still refuse to repent of their idolatry, murders, sorceries, fornications and thefts.

1) If the people will not repent because of Moses and the prophets; they will not repent because Jesus Christ is Lord.

Luke 16:31, *And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

2) The sins mentioned in this passage of scripture are prevalent in America, and the world, today.

a) Demon worship. There are groups in the United States which practice blood and human sacrifice.

b) Idol worship. Great profit is realized from the sale of little Buddhas and other idol images. When people are truly converted, they destroy these images of idolatry.

Acts 19:19, *Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.*

c) Murder. It is often called temporary insanity when a man kidnaps six nurses and kills them; or when another man kidnaps 33 boys, commits sodomy with them, kills them and even sleeps with their dead bodies. Yet murderers of this type are still able to successfully carry out their daily business.

This type of activity is not insanity, it is a spirit of murder. A spirit of murder exists in any land where somebody can kill another human being, then go home, eat dinner and sleep–without any feeling of guilt or remorse.

d) Fornication. America seems to think that chastity is a thing of the past.

e) Theft. Billions of dollars are lost annually through shop-lifting, larceny, burglary and tax evasion.

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INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE REVELATION
OF
JESUS CHRIST

LESSON 13

THE TWO FINAL HARVESTS AND THE TWO FEASTS OF REVELATION

INTRODUCTION

There are two great end-time harvests. There are also two amazing feasts. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, now appears on a cloud wearing a golden crown and holding a sharp sickle. It is time for Him to reap the final harvest from the earth.

The fourth angel announces that the time for the harvest has come.

The fifth angel holds a sharp sickle. The difference between this angel and Christ, is that the angel proclaims judgment.

The sixth angel cries out from the altar to the angel with the sickle. It is time to gather the clusters from the vine on earth.

Note that in the first harvest, they reaped wheat. This harvest is one of the fruit of the vine. It is time to make the wine, which signifies judgment.

The angel thrust his sickle into the earth, and cast the harvest into the winepress of God's wrath. This is the time of the last great battle (Armageddon). The blood will flow to the horses' bridles for 1,600 furlongs, or about 200 miles.

There are two separate harvests, a harvest of life and a harvest of death. The world is not getting better; it is headed for the bloodiest war it has ever known.

READING

Revelation 14:14-20, *And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.*

v. 15, *And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.*

v. 16, *And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.*

v. 17, *And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.*

v. 18, *And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.*

v. 19, *And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.*

v. 20, *And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.*

1. TWO HARVESTS

These two harvests are harvests of immortal souls. This fact alone makes them important.

A. The first harvest is a harvest of love.

1) Revelation 14:14, *And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.*

a) John had the ability to see and understand the conditions of Revelation. He saw a white cloud where the Son of Man sat. Christ called Himself the Son of Man 79 times in the New Testament.

b) The Lord wore a golden crown. Jesus no longer has a crown of thorns; He has the right to reign, and His crown reflects that right.

c) He is holding a sharp sickle. A sickle is a harvesting tool, this one is sharp and ready to be used. It represents the judgment of the wicked.

2) Revelation 14:15, *And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.*

a) An angel comes out of the heavenly temple with an announcement for the Lord Jesus. It is amazing that Christ is willing to listen to an angel, a created being.

b) The time has come for Jesus Christ to thrust in His sickle and reap the harvest. You cannot reap a harvest without a sickle and someone to use it. Jesus is the reaper of this harvest.

c) Ecclesiastes 3:1, *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.*

Time is essential. There is a time for everything–including a time to reap the harvest.

d) Revelation 14:15, …*for the harvest of the earth is ripe.*

There has never been a time when immortal souls have been as ripe for harvest as today.

3) Revelation 14:16, *And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.*

Matthew 13:39, …*the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.*

B. The second harvest is a harvest of judgment. God not only promises a harvest of love; but He also promises one of judgment also.

1) Revelation 14:17, *And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.*

2) Revelation 14:18, *And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.*

a) An angel comes from the holy altar. He cries out to the angel with the sharp sickle. Notice that this proclamation is angel to angel, not angel to Jesus.

b) The angel with the sickle is commanded to gather the clusters of the vine of the earth. The picture has completely changed. The harvest is no longer wheat, but grapes.

c) Grapes represent wrath and judgment.

d) The grapes are fully ripe and ready to be picked. The world has never been as ready for harvest as it is right now.

3) Revelation 14:19, *And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.*

The angel obeys. He thrusts his sickle into the earth, and throws the harvest of grapes into the winepress of God's wrath. What a harvest is this harvest of wrath!

4) Revelation 14:20, *And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.*

a) No human being can imagine the blood that will flow from this judgment. It will be as deep as a horse's bridle for 1,600 furlongs, or about 200 miles. This is a harvest of death. It is Armageddon, the mount of slaughter.

b) The Antichrist will lead rebellious armies who will try to battle with the forces of God.

2. TWO FEASTS

A. The first feast will be the marriage supper of the Lamb. It will be the most thrilling experience believers will ever have.

Revelation 19:7-9, *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

v. 8, *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

v. 9, *And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

1) The wife has prepared herself. She is robed in the holiness of the bride of Christ.

2) The wife has dressed herself in fine linen, clean and white. It represents the righteousness of the saints of God.

3) Those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb are blessed.

B. The second feast will be a feast for the vultures.

Revelation 19:17-18, *And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;*

v. 18, *That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.*

1) An angel calls the carnivorous fowl of the air to come to …*the supper of the great God.* These birds are commanded to eat. People who live carnally in their flesh will have that flesh destroyed.

2) God commands the vultures to eat the flesh of kings, captains, and mighty men, as well as the flesh of the horses and their riders.

C. Revelation 19:21, *And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.*

This verse is a warning. It is a frightful thing to rebel against the Most High God. He will judge the world someday, and those who rebel against Him will receive that judgment.

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LESSON 14

THE THREE FROG SPIRITS

INTRODUCTION

The judgments recorded in the book of Revelation are literal and real. There is no other honest interpretation. They will be as factual as the ten plagues which fell upon Egypt. In fact, four of the Egyptian plagues will be repeated during the Great Tribulation. How can a Christian believe in the validity of the Egyptian plagues and still deny the reality of prophecy?

READING

Revelation 16:13-16, *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*

v. 14, *For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

v. 15, *Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*

v. 16, *And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*

1. THREE UNCLEAN SPIRITS

Revelation 16:13, *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*

A. Note that verse 13 states that they are spirits or demons. The world has yet to encounter its most dreadful battle in the spirit world.

B. These spirits are unclean. This reference to uncleanness means that they are unholy, ungodly and immoral.

C. These spirits are like frogs. Frogs frequently live in a morass of filth, and come from the quagmires of the universe. These spirits will be noisy.

2. IDENTIFYING THE THREE SPIRITS

A. The first spirit came out of the dragon. This dragon is Satan, the devil, who is the prince of this world.

B. The second spirit comes from the beast. The beast is the Antichrist, who rises to rule the world with satanic power.

C. The third spirit comes from the mouth of the false prophet. The false prophet is the religious and spiritual advisor to the Antichrist. He will cause the church leaders of the world to follow the Antichrist.

3. THREE DEVASTATING INFLUENCES

Revelation 16:14, *For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

A. The dragon spirit will deal with the world's moral issues the same way he did in the Garden of Eden. He will teach atheism, humanism, evolution, the breakdown of the family and moral deviance. This has always been his area of endeavor.

B. These spirits will be evil spirits, and will work miracles before the eyes of the people.

C. The beast will deal with politics and economics. The false prophet will work in the area of religion. They will seem to perform the supernatural. Millions of people with agree that they solve every crisis.

D. The major work of these three spirits will be to bring the world to the battle of Armageddon.

Armageddon is called the great day of the Lord God Almighty. It is a day God has waited for. It is a day of God's vengeance on ungodly men who have worshiped the darkness, and not the light; people who have worshiped evil, and not good.

4. A TREMENDOUS WARNING

Revelation 16:15, *Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*

A. Jesus Christ said that He will come back as a thief in the night. Many people will be caught unaware.

B. Blessed is the person who watches. He will be saved.

C. Blessed is the person who keeps his garments of spiritual faith, love and power. Guard yourself against being naked, backslidden or unfaithful.

The world mocks the hypocrisy of the backslidden Christian. They see his shame.

5. THE THREE FROGS SPIRITS AND ARMAGEDDON

Revelation 16:16, *And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*

A. The battle of Armageddon will be the bloodiest, saddest and most devastating hour of human history.

B. This battle will purge the world of rebellion and the worship of evil.

C. This battle will initiate the beginning of the millennial reign of Christ, where people with serve the Lord for 1,000 years. The Millennium will be a time of love and peace.

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INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE REVELATION
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LESSON 15

THE MILLENNIUM OR
THOUSAND YEAR REIGN OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

Very few people are well-versed in the cardinal truths of our Christian faith. Each member of the church should be able to expound eternal truth perfectly and powerfully.

Deep-seated doctrinal perplexities exist. They are often unreasonable views and doctrines which become barriers to the truth.

A knowledge of prophecy is essential in order to rightly divine the truth. It is inseparatable from an intelligent life in Christ. The prophetic message is essential for this present hour of world crisis. It is our duty and privilege to declare the certainties which will occur in the future. These are not merely views of eschatology, but concrete foundations of the Christian faith.

READING

Revelation 20:4, *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

1. WHAT IS THE MILLENNIUM?

A. The word, millennium, is Latin for *a thousand years*. This term is repeated six times in the first seven verses of Revelation 20.

B. The millennium is the dispensation of divine government on earth. It will a time when God, His Son and the Holy Spirit will rule over all nations.

2. THREE SCHOOLS OF INTERPRETATION

A. Amillennialism.

1) The amillennialist believes that there will never be 1,000 years of peace when Jesus Christ reigns. This doctrine is one of unbelief. It originated with a corrupt church during the Middle Ages.

2) Amillennialism teaches that there will be no rapture. They do not believe in the throne of David. They do not believe Satan will ever be bound. The very nature of amillennialism discourages the study of prophecy.

3) There are many amillennialists among the clergy and laity.

4) Amillennialism teaches that the church is Israel.

5) An amillennialist believes the world will be destroyed when Christ returns to earth.

6) An amillennialist believes the book of Revelation was only written for the first century church. He believes it has already been fulfilled and does not apply to today's world.

B. Post-millennialism.

1) The post-millennialistic doctrine teaches that Christ will return to earth after the millennium. It declares that the whole world will be evangelized with the preaching of the gospel before Christ returns. Post-millennialists believe that the world will know 1,000 years of peace, then Christ will return.

2) This doctrine is part of the heritage of traditional religion. It teaches that a the world is gradually getting better, and growing into the Kingdom of God. It believes that social, political, economic and religious conditions are improving with human effort.

3) Post-millennialism is discouraged, and considered obsolete today. The continual dissolution of society disproves the doctrine.

4) Post-millennialism was popular after World War I. It's adherents taught that World War I was the war to end all wars; but this misconception was blasted by the reality and truth of World War II.

C. Pre-millennialism.

1) Pre-millennialism teaches that Jesus Christ can return any day. Pre-millennialism is the first of these three doctrines historically. Christians expected the imminent return of Christ in apostolic times.

2) Pre-millennialism believes that Christ will come suddenly for His church, then He will set up His kingdom.

3) Pre-millennialism is a superior and positive view of this subject. Other arguments are abstract and obtrusive.

4) Pre-millennialism becomes more evident all the time. The world is not getting better; it is getting worse! Today the world's greatest crisis is clouded but indications of a still greater crisis ahead.

5) Pre-millennialism literally believes Revelation chapter two.

6) The Second Coming is the most important doctrine of the New Testament.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18, *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

v. 14, *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

v. 15, *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

v. 16, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

v. 17, *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

v.18, *Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

The phrase, *caught up,* in Greek literally means *to snatch up suddenly.*

I Thessalonians 5:2, *For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

Like a thief in the night, the day of the Lord will come without warning.

I Corinthians 15:51-52, *Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

v. 52, *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed*.

The rapture is described in I Corinthians as occurring *in the twinkling of an eye*. Laboratories have measured the twinkling of an eye at 1/100 of a second.

World history will be incomplete without an age of peace and prosperity. Jesus Christ will provide that age.

3. THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST AND HIS SAINTS

A. Jesus Christ will be the absolute ruler of earth. He will be the King of the world.

Revelation 11:15, …*The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

Revelation 20:11, *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it…*

B. Daniel 7:13-14, 18, *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.*

v. 14, *And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

v. 18, *But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.*

C. The martyrs of the Great Tribulation will reign with Christ.

Revelation 20:4, *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

The souls of those beheaded for Jesus Christ and the work of God will reign. They will trade three-and-a-half years of tribulation for a 1,000-year reign.

D. Those people who refused to worship the beast, or his image, will reign.

Revelation 15:2, *And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.*

4. SCRIPTURAL TERMS FOR THE MILLENNIUM

A. The 1,000 year reign of Christ.

Revelation 20:1-10, *And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

v. 2, *And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*

v. 3, *And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

v. 4, *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

v. 5, *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

v. 6, *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

v.7, *And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

v. 8, *And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*

v. 9, *And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*

v. 10, *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

B. The dispensation of the fullness of times.

Ephesians 1:10, *That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.*

C. The times of the restitution of all things.

Acts 3:20-21, *And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:*
v. 21, *Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

D. The consolation of Israel.

Luke 2:25, *And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.*

E. The redemption in Jerusalem.

Luke 1:32, *He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.*

5. THE DISPENSATION OF THE MILLENNIUM

A. The millennium is the seventh dispensation. Earlier dispensations are:

1) Innocence–from the creation to Adam's fall.

2) Conscience–from the fall to the flood.

3) Human Government–from the flood to the tower of Babel.

4) Promise–from the tower of Babel to Mount Sinai.

5) Law–from Mount Sinai to the cross.

6) Grace–from the cross to the rapture.

B. There will be a change in the animal kingdom during the millennium.

Isaiah 65:25, *The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.*

C. Jerusalem will be the capital of the world.

D. The millennium will last until Satan is loosed (see the next lesson).

E. The Millennium will be the last age before the eternal, perfect state when God's creation will again be like it was before rebellion started in the universe.

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LESSON 16

SATAN BOUND AND LOOSED

INTRODUCTION

Satan, or the devil, was created a high angelic creature called *the anointed cherub*. He covered the throne of God (Ezekiel 28:11-17; Isaiah 14:12-17). He rebelled against his Creator and became the chief antagonist of God. This lesson studies how Satan will be bound during the millennial reign of Christ. He will then be loosed for a short period of time before his final doom.

READING

Revelation 20:1-3, *And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

v. 2, *And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*

v. 3, *And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

1. THE REALITY OF SATAN

A. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible deals with Satan as a real being. He is the god of this age, and the prince of the power of the air.

B. He will suffer a literal doom.

C. He will be bound by a literal angel with literal chains.

D. He will be cast into a literal abyss, which will be sealed.

E. His imprisonment will pave the way for the Millennium.

2. THE BOTTOMLESS PIT

The key to the bottomless pit is held by a heavenly angel. This angel will lay hold to the devil, and cast him into the bottomless pit, where he will no longer be able to deceive the nations.

3. SATAN FREED FROM HIS PRISON

Revelation 20:7-10, *And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

v. 8, *And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*

v. 9, *And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*

v. 10, *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

When the thousand years expires, Satan will be freed from his prison. He will then go to deceive the nations, including Gog and Magog.

4. SATAN'S FINAL DESTINY

A. Fire will come down from heaven. Satan's armies will be devoured and Satan himself will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.

B. Satan, the beast and the false prophet will be tormented forever!

5. LIFE WITHOUT A TEMPTER

Isaiah 65:17-25, *For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.*

v. 18, *But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.*

v. 19, *And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.*

v. 20, *There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.*

v. 21, *And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.*

v. 22, *They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*

v. 23, *They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.*

v. 24, *And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*

v. 25, *The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.*

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INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE REVELATION
OF
JESUS CHRIST

LESSON 17

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

INTRODUCTION

John saw a great, white throne occupied by the Lord Jesus Christ. The earth and heaven fled from His face. Every rebel against God will be cast into the lake of fire to be punished forever. The lost souls of the ages will be raised from the dead to be judge there.

READING

Revelation 20:11-15, *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

v. 12, *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

v. 13, *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

v. 14, *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

v. 15, *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

1. THE JUDGE

A. God is the judge of humanity.

Hebrews 12:23, *To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.*

Revelation 6:10, *And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*

Revelation 19:11, *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

B. God the Father will make a decree, and God the Son will execute it.

John 5:22-27, *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:*

v. 23, *That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him.*

v. 24, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

v. 25, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.*

v. 26, *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;*

v. 27, *And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.*

2. THE SUBJECTS ARE JUDGED

A. Wicked people of the human race will be resurrected and judged. The saved and redeemed people were raised in the first resurrection.

Acts 17:31, *Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*

B. Fallen angels, the unjust and unrighteous who have sinned will be judged.

II Peter 2:4, 9, 12-13, *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*

v. 9, *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*

v. 12, *But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;*

v. 13, *And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you.*

3. THE TIME AND PLACE OF JUDGMENT

A. It will occur after the Millennium and final doom of Satan.

Revelation 20:10, *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

B. It will happen in heaven.

Revelation 20:11, *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

4. THE PURPOSE OF JUDGMENT

A. Each individual will receive a fair trial before he is condemned and punished.

Acts 17:31, *Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*

B. It will judge *the secrets of men.*

Romans 2:16, *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

C. Its purpose will be to judge all idle words.

Matthew 12:36, *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*

D. All the works, thoughts, actions and sins of humanity will be judged.

I Timothy 5:24, *Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.*

5. THE RESULT OF THE WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

A. The people whose names are not written in the Book will be exposed.

Revelation 21:8, *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

B. The people who have followed Satan will be cast into the lake of fire with him.

Revelation 14:9-11, *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,*

v. 10, *The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:*

v. 11, *And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

C. The people who have refused to serve God will be punished by fire forever.

Revelation 20:15, *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

D. The punishment and torment of the body and conscience over past deeds committed will eat into a person's innermost being as ages past in the eternal future.

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LESSON 18

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

The phrase, *judgment seat,* comes from the Greek word *beama,* which literally means *reward seat.* The judgment seat of Christ is not a judgment of the soul, but of service. We will be judged on the way we lived the Christian life.

READING

Revelation 20:4-6, *Then I saw thrones, and sitting on them were those to whom authority to act as judges and pass sentence was entrusted. Also I saw the souls of those who had been slain with axes (beheaded) for their witnessing to Jesus and [for preaching and testifying] for the Word of God, and who had refused to pay homage to the beast or his statue and had not accepted his mark or permitted it to be stamped on their foreheads or on their hands. And they live again, and ruled with Christ, the Messiah, a thousand years.*

v. 5, *The remainder of the dead were not restored to life again until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.*

v. 6, *Blessed (happy, to be envied) and holy–spiritually whole, of unimpaired innocence and proven virtue–is the person who takes part (shares) in the first resurrection! Over them the second death exerts no power or authority, but they shall be ministers of God and of Christ, the Messiah, and they shall rule along with Him a thousand years.* (Amp.).

1. THE JUDGMENT OF BELIEVERS

The seven churches of Revelation chapters one and two were all judged. Some of them were judged severely.

A. Romans 14:10, *But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.* (NKJV).

B. I Corinthians 9:24-27, *Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.*

v. 25, *And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

v. 26, *I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:*

v. 27, *But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

2. THE TIME OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

It will occur between the rapture and the second coming of Jesus Christ.

A. Luke 14:14 *"And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."* (NKJV).

B. I Corinthians 4:5, *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

C. II Timothy 4:8, *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

3. THE PLACE OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Christ has taken His seat in heaven. The judgment seat of Christ will take place there.

Hebrews 12:2, …*and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

4. THE PURPOSE OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

This judgment is not one of believer's sins. Those sins were atoned for on a cross. This judgment is one of works, both good and bad. It is also a judgment of the believer, and a time to hand out rewards.

A. II Corinthians 5:10, *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

B. I Corinthians 3:9-15, *For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*

v. 10, *According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.*

v. 11, *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

v. 12, *Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;*

v. 13, *Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*

v. 14, *If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

v. 15, *If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

5. ALL BELIEVERS SHALL BE JUDGED

Believers will be judged on the following characteristics:

A. Truth.

Romans 2:14-16, *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:*

v. 15, *Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)*

v. 16, *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

B. Conduct.

Matthew 18:21, *Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?*

v. 22, *Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.*

II Corinthians 5:10, *For we must all appear and be revealed as we are before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive [his pay] according to what he has done in the body, whether good or evil, [considering what his purpose and motive have been, and what he has achieved, been busy with and given himself and his attention to accomplishing]*. (Amp.).

Our very purposes and motives, as well as our achievements, will be judged. II Corinthians 5:11 in *The Amplified Bible* tells us that …*what sort of person we are is plainly recognized and thoroughly understood by God.*….

C. Dedication.

Colossians 3:1-4, *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

v. 2, *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

v. 3, *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

v. 4, *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

We are commanded to be heavenly-minded. Our lives should be characterized by personal holiness.

D. Our spoken words.

Matthew 12:32-37, *And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.*

v. 33, *Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.*

v. 34, *O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*

v. 35, *A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.*

v. 36, *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*

v. 37, *For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.*

Ephesians 4:29, *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

E. Sins of omission (neglected opportunities).

Hebrews 2:1, *Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*

Any area of life which is neglected becomes tragic; but neglect in the spiritual realm is infinitely more tragic.

Jesus spoke about sins of omission.

Matthew 23:23-28, *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*

v. 24, *Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.*

v. 25, *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.*

v. 26, *Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.*

v. 27, *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.*

v. 28, *Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.*

F. How we live in Christ.

Revelation 3:11, *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*

Hebrews 2:3, *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation…*

G. Our life in Christ (sanctification).

1) Revelation 2:10, *…be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

2) Revelation 12:11, *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

3) Revelation 21:7, *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

4) Colossians 3:23-25, *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*

v. 24, *Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*

v. 25, *But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.*

We should not live our lives to please other people. We will be required to account for our lives to the Lord. His representatives on earth need to be faithful.

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THE REVELATION
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JESUS CHRIST

LESSON 19

THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

INTRODUCTION

The writer of the book of Revelation, John, was a spectator and witness to the panoramic final episode which will usher in eternity. Human nature desires to know the future, and how something will end. John tells us in chapter 21 how the heavens and earth will end. Eternity is unveiled in this chapter.

READING

Revelation 21:1, *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

1. THE HEAVENS AND EARTH WILL BE ANNIHILATED

Jesus said in Matthew 24:35, *Heaven and earth shall pass away.…*

God will deliver His creation from its present bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty and manifestation of the children of God.

Romans 8:21-22, *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

v. 22, *For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.*

Scripture teaches that the present order of creation will *pass away* and there will be *a new heaven and a new earth.*

2. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THIS HEAVEN AND EARTH?

A. Peter prophesied:

II Peter 3:10, *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

B. The events to occur will be similar to the events which happened at the Flood.

II Peter 3:5-7, *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*

v. 6, *Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

v. 7, *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

Noah's world was covered with water and perished. The earth of his time was cleansed of violence, immorality and rebellion. The present earth will be destroyed with fire and fervent heat.

Notice that Peter states that the world is *willingly ignorant.* The people of this earth willfully overlook the fact that the heaven and earth were created by the Word of God.

3. A WARNING TO THE PEOPLE OF EARTH

Peter warns us that there has been historical precedent for judgment since the Flood. We have been warned. Be ready. Watch the way you live.

II Peter 3:11-12, *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

v. 12, *Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

4. THE NEW EARTH IS ETERNAL

A. The new earth will be characterized by righteousness.

II Peter 3:13, *Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

B. An earth filled with selflessness and moral character will replace the old earth. This will all occur at the end of the Millennial Kingdom.

Isaiah 65:17, *For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.*

C. There will be eternal salvation for those who accept redemption through Jesus Christ. They will be permitted to enter the new earth, and carry out God's original purpose in creation.

The Lord God will set up His headquarters on earth, and reign over His universal kingdom. This kingdom will be free from sin and rebellion. It will be a kingdom of beauty, glory and fulfillment.

5. THE NEW HEAVEN

A. No more sea.

One of the chief characteristics of the new heaven and earth will be its lack of seas and oceans. There will be entirely new atmospheric conditions, and a completely different climate world-wide.

Revelation 21:1, *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

B. A new people.

Only the redeemed, and the people whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will inherit the new earth and new Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:24, 27, *And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.*

v. 27, *And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

C. There will be a new city.

The New Jerusalem will descend from God out of heaven.

Revelation 21:1-2, 10, *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

v. 2, *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

v. 10, *And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*

D. There will be no more death.

Death will no longer exist! The curse will be taken away! Everything will be made new. There will be no more funeral processions! There will be no more tears!

Revelation 21:4, *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying….*

E. There will be new health.

Pain will be no more! Doctors will be put out of business.

Revelation 21:4, *…neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

F. There will be no more curse.

This earth is blighted by the curse of sin. The new creation will not be marred by sin. The very presence of God will prevent sin from ever gaining a foothold.

Revelation 22:3, *And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him.*

G. There will be no more night.

God will light the universe with His presence.

Revelation 22:5, *And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

H. The Bride (the Church triumphant) will reign with Christ forever.

The people who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ will reign with Him.

Revelation 22:5, *…and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

CONCLUSION

Revelation 22:20-21, *He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

v. 21, *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

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INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE REVELATION
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LESSON 20

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

The judgment of the nations terminates the dispensation of grace and begins the kingdom age, or Millennium. This is when Jesus Christ will rule and reign over the earth.

Before that time can come, seven judgments mentioned in the scriptures must occur.

READING

Matthew 25:31-46, *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

v. 32, *And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

v. 33, *And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*

v. 34, *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

v. 35, *For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:*

v. 36, *Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

v. 37, *Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?*

v. 38, *When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?*

v. 39, *Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?*

v. 40, *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

v. 41, *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

v. 42, *For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:*

v. 43, *I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.*

v. 44, *Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?*

v. 45, *Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.*

v. 46, *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

1. THE JUDGMENT OF BELIEVERS' SIN

Romans 6:10, *For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

Hebrews 9:25-28, *Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;*

v. 26, *For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*

v. 27, *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

v. 28, *So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

2. A JUDGMENT ON BELIEVERS' LIVES

Ephesians 4:22-32, *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

v. 23, *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*

v. 24, *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

v. 25, *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.*

v. 26, *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:*

v. 27, *Neither give place to the devil.*

v. 28, *Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*

v. 29, *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

v. 30, *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

v. 31, *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*

v. 32, *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

3. JUDGMENT OF BELIEVERS' WORKS

A. Both good and bad works.

I Corinthians 3:11-15, *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

v. 12, *Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;*

v. 13, *Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*

v. 14, *If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

v. 15, *If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

B. Believers will be judged for their doctrines and conduct toward others.

Matthew 18:7, *Woe unto the world because of offenses! for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh!*

C. Believers will be judge for carnal traits, broken promises, slander, quarreling and debts.

Romans 1:29-32, *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*

v. 30, *Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*

v. 31, *Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:*

v. 32, *Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

D. Believers will be judge for wasted time, loose living and a lack of spirituality.

Romans 2:14-16, *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:*

v. 15, *Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)*

v. 16, *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

4. THE JUDGMENT OF ISRAEL

Ezekiel 20:33-44, *As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:*

v. 34, *And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.*

v. 35, *And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.*

v. 36, *Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.*

v. 37, *And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:*

v. 38, *And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.*

v. 39, *As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols.*

v. 40, *For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things.*

v. 41, *I will accept you with your sweet savor, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen.*

v. 42, *And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers.*

v. 43, *And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed.*

v. 44, *And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have wrought with you for my name's sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.*

5. JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS

Matthew 25:31-32, *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

v. 32, *And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.*

A. This judgment will fall upon the individuals who compose nations. By the time of this judgment all nations will have had the opportunity to hear and receive the Gospel.

B. This judgment will take place at the end of the Great Tribulation.

C. This judgment will be held in Israel.

D. This judgment will be based on how nations have treated God and His people. The nations will be judged on whether they have received Jesus Christ as a sacrifice for their sins.

E. This judgment will result in whether a nation will enter the millennium or be cast into the outer darkness.

6. THE JUDGMENT OF THE ANGELS

II Peter 2:4, *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.*

Jude 6, *And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*

The angels who rebelled with Lucifer will be judged here. Some of them have been imprisoned until the time of this judgment; others are the demons who are abroad in the earth today.

7. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

Revelation 20:11-12, *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

v. 12, *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the*

dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE REVELATION
OF
JESUS CHRIST

LESSON 21

THE SIX FINAL THINGS TO COME OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

INTRODUCTION

Many prophecies in the book of Daniel indicate the time of the return of Christ. Other prophecies speak of the 69 week reign of the Gentile nations, which will terminate with the return of the Messiah. The 70th week symbolizes the Great Tribulation, especially for the Jews. After 6,000 years of transgression, the time of final reckoning for the world will come.

Jeremiah refers to the Great Tribulation as *the time of Jacob's trouble.* The definition of tribulation is *grievous trouble; severe trial, experience or affliction; prolonged suffering, especially of the mind.* The Great Tribulation will be the darkest page of human history.

There will be at least six final things during the Great Tribulation. These things are listed in the book of Daniel.

Daniel 9:24, *Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make*

reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Daniel, through the power of the Holy Spirit, saw a vision of 70 weeks of years, or 490 years, determined on the Jewish nation. The Holy One, the Messiah, was rejected after 483 years, 69 prophetic weeks. The prophecy indicates that the judgment against Israel will last 70 weeks of years. The 70th week is yet to happen. This prophecy will terminate with the return of the Messiah, and the establishment of His kingdom.

Daniel wrote this prophecy in the year Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians. This was the first year of King Darius, the emperor of the Persian Empire in 538 BC.

READING

Revelation 21:1-4, *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

v. 2, *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

v. 3, *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

v. 4, *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

Jeremiah 30:7, *Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.*

Matthew 24:15-21, *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*

v. 16, *Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:*

v. 17, *Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:*

v. 18, *Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.*

v. 19, *And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!*

v. 20, *But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day:*

v. 21, *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

1. TO FINISH THE TRANSGRESSION

The transgression referred to is the Jewish transgression of rejecting their Messiah.

2. TO MAKE AN END OF SIN

The sins of the whole world, from the Garden of Eden to the end of the Great Tribulation, will be finished.

Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire. There will no longer be a tempter to cause sin.

3. TO MAKE RECONCILIATION FOR INIQUITY

A. Reconciliation means *to purge away.*

B. This reconciliation is not the same as the atonement for sin through Christ's death and resurrection.

C. Christ will reconcile the people to God.

4. TO BRING IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS

A. Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, came to redeem the unrighteous and bring in everlasting righteousness!

B. He was accepted by the Father, therefore the redeemed will be able to rule with Christ.

5. TO SEAL THE VISION AND PROPHECY

A. The prophecy could be sealed with Christ being seated on His throne.

B. Prophets will no longer be needed.

C. This phrase could also mean the fulfillment of all prophecy.

6. TO ANOINT THE MOST HOLY ONE

A. A great temple will be built in Jerusalem. It will be consecrated as a place for the whole world to worship.

B. Nations will come to Jerusalem to bow before the Messiah. This worship will not happen in Geneva, Rome, London or New York City; it will happen in the new Jerusalem.

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INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE REVELATION
OF
JESUS CHRIST

LESSON 22

THE LAKE OF FIRE

INTRODUCTION

The Bible teaches about the reward of the wicked, and the judgment of sinners. Jesus spoke about hell more often than He did about heaven.

READING

Revelation 20:14-15, *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

v. 15, *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

1. THE LAKE OF FIRE

A. The lake of fire is the eternal abode and perdition of wicked people, demons, fallen angels and all the other creatures who have rebelled against God the Creator.

B. The eternal judgment is called *the lake of fire* five times in Revelation (see Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 14, 15; 21:8).

C. Everlasting hell is referred to as *the second death* four times (see Revelation 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8).

Revelation 21:8, *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Hell is a place of the future. It is a place of eternal torment. It is reserved for the lost. Jesus called the place, *outer darkness* (see Matthew 8:12; 22:13; 25:30).

D. Jesus taught about the *danger of hell fire* and the *damnation of hell.*

Matthew 5:22, *But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*

Matthew 23:15-32 teaches about people who convert others to cults and error, and those who pay tithes but do not show mercy. It refers to people who seem to be righteous, but are full of iniquity, then the passage says:

Matthew 23:33 *Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?*

E. Victory over sin is the only way to escape the fires of hell.

Matthew 18:9, *And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.*

Revelation 21:8, *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

2. WHAT PART OF A PERSON CAN BE LOST FOREVER?

Both a person's body and soul will go to hell.

Matthew 10:28, *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Luke 12:5 *"But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!"* (NKJV).

Revelation 20:11-15, *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

v. 12, *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

v. 13, *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

v. 14, *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

v. 15, *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

3. WHO DECIDES WHO GOES TO HELL?

God is the only one with the power to condemn someone to hell.

Matthew 10:28, *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

4. ARE THERE DEGREES OF PUNISHMENT IN HELL?

Revelation 20:13, *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

Matthew 23:14-15, *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.*

v. 15, *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.*

5. THE GREATEST PUNISHMENTS IN HELL

A. Eternal separation from God.

B. God's impartiality to humanity.

C. The eternal memory of eternal loss.

6. HOW LONG WILL HELL LAST?

A. Forever. It will last eternally.

Revelation 14:9-11, *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,*

v. 10, *The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:*

v. 11, *And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

B. Time without end. Hell is a place of eternal torment with fire and brimstone (Revelation 20:10-15).

C. Hell will be perpetual and everlasting.

Daniel 12:2, *And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

D. Hell will be a place of endless punishment.

Matthew 25:41-46, *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

v. 42, *For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:*

v. 43, *I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.*

v. 44, *Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?*

v. 45, *Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.*

v. 46, *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

Mark 3:29, *"But he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"*. (NKJV).

Hebrews 6:2, *Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.*

Jude 7, *Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

7. WAS HELL CREATED FOR HUMANITY?

A. No, hell was created for the devil and his angels.

B. God is not to blame for humanity's choices. We choose our own destiny in life.

Ezekiel 33:11, *Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*

D. People who persist in going to hell are the children of the devil.

E. Only the wicked will go to hell (see II Peter 2:4; Jude 6-7; Luke 8:31; and Revelation 20:3).

8. IS THERE A FUTURE RESTORATION FROM HELL?

A. No, it is the final doom of the ungodly.

B. The wicked will be cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:10, *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

C. There is a deep chasm between heaven and hell which cannot be crossed.

Luke 16:26, *And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.*

D. There will be weeping wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 8:12, *But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Matthew 13:41-42, *The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;*

v. 42, *And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

Matthew 22:13, *Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Matthew 25:30, *And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

F. Hell will be a place of eternal torment.

Revelation 14:9-12, *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,*

v. 10, *The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:*

v. 11, *And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

v. 12, *Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*

Those who are cast into the lake of fire are the same people whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Those who are in hell will be conscious. They will feel fire, pain, sorrow, prayer, memory and severe torment forever.

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INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE REVELATION
OF
JESUS CHRIST

LESSON 23

THE NEW JERUSALEM

INTRODUCTION

After the Millennium, the Holy City of God will be brought from heaven to earth. It will be accessible to humanity throughout eternity.

READING

Revelation 21:2-3, *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

v. 3, *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

1. NO MORE TEARS OR SORROW

When the New Jerusalem is in place, there will be no more human hurts, sorrow or pain. Death will be destroyed, and there will not be any need to cry anymore.

Revelation 21:4, *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

2. JESUS WILL REIGN

Jesus' throne will be in the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:5, *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

3. SPIRITUAL LIFE WILL FLOW FROM THE CITY

The New Jerusalem will be the center for all spiritual life. This life will flow outward from the city through the whole earth.

Revelation 21:6, *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

4. WHO WILL HAVE A PART IN THE NEW JERUSALEM?

A. Only overcomers and the righteous will have a place in the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:7-8, *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

v. 8, *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

B. The residents of the New Jerusalem will be the saints of all the ages, the bride of Christ.

Revelation 21:9-10, *And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.*

Revelation 21:10, And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

5. A CITY FILLED WITH THE GLORY OF GOD

A. The New Jerusalem is a radiant city. It will be filled the glory of God.

Revelation 21:11, *Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.*

B. Its gates represent the twelve tribes of Israel.

Revelation 21:12, *And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.*

C. Its foundations are inscribed with the names of the twelve apostles.

Revelation 21:14, *And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

D. The city will be 1,500 miles square, and built with precious metals and stones.

Revelation 21:15-21, *And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.*

v. 16, *And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.*

v. 17, *And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.*

v. 18, *And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.*

v. 19, *And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;*

v. 20, *The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolyte; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.*

v. 21, *And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.*

E. The city will be the dwelling place of God Himself, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 21:22-23, *And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.*

v. 23, *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

F. The city will be adorned with the saved from every nation and every generation.

Revelation 21:24-27, *And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.*

v. 25, *And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.*

v. 26, *And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.*

v. 27, *And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

THE REVELATION

(The) Revelation is a book of conclusions. It deals with the termination of evil (of transgressions, sickness, separation, darkness and death), the destruction of the devil and the end of time.

Lesson Titles Include

- Revelation of Jesus Christ
- Seven Churches I & II
- Lake of Fire
- Seven Promises Christ Made to the Overcomer
- Seven Judgments upon the Unfaithful Church
- Rapture
- Book with Seven Seals
- Four Wild Horsemen
- 144,000 World Evangelists
- Two Final Harvests and Two Feasts
- Three Frog Spirits
- Judgment of the Nations
- Millennium — 1,000-Year Reign of Christ
- Great White Throne Judgment
- New Jerusalem—New Heaven —New Earth
- Judgment Seat of Christ
- Satan Bound and Loosed

Dr. Lester Sumrall is a prominent voice in the Christian world, having ministered for over sixty years in more than one hundred nations of the world. Dr. Sumrall founded LeSEA, a multi-faceted global outreach. One very important facet is *The End-Time Joseph Program to Feed the Hungry.*

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